

7. Talents, Deut. 8 : 18 ; Matt. 25 : 14, 15.
8. Rest, Ps. 14 : 3 ; 127 : 2 ; Matt. 11 : 28.
9. The Holy Spirit, Luke 11 : 13.
10. A new heart, Ezek. 36 : 26 ; Jer. 32 : 39.
11. A crown, Rev. 2 : 10.
12. Victory, I Cor. 15 : 57.
13. All things, I Tim. 6 : 17.

We are to give

14. Our all in full surrender, Prov. 23 : 26 ; Rom. 12 : 1 ; Luke 14 : 33 ; I Cor. 6 : 20 ; I Cor. 4 : 4.

QUESTIONS

1. What is a covenant ?
2. What does God promise to us without asking anything in return ? Acts 17 : 25.
3. How long does our covenant with God last ?
4. Under what conditions if any may we give up or break our covenants ?
5. Why is it good to make definite covenants ?
6. What was God's covenant with Noah ? Gen. 9 : 12-16.
7. What was God's covenant with Abraham ? Gen. 17 : 9-12.
8. What is the difference between the old and the new covenants ? Deut. 4 : 13 ; Heb. 8 : 6-13.
9. How may we better keep our covenant ?

C. F. YODER.

Just for Today

Lord, for tomorrow and its needs
I do not pray ;
Keep me, my God, from stain of sin,
Just for today.
Let me both diligently work
And daily pray.
Let me be kind in words and deed,
Just for today.
Let me be slow to do my will,
Prompt to obey ;
Help me to overcome my flesh,
Just for today.
Let me no wrong or idle word
Unthinkingly say :
Set Thou a seal upon my lips,
Just for today.
Let me in season, Lord, be grave,
In season gay ;
Let me be faithful to Thy grace,
Just for today.
So for tomorrow and its needs
I do not pray ;
But keep me, guide me, love me Lord,
Just for today.

—Canon Wilberforce.

GETTING HOLD OF YOUNG MEN

THEODORE L. CUYLER

Every year when the special "week of prayer for young men" is observed, the Central Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association send out a circular which contains some very painful statements. These circulars affirm that an enormous majority of the young men are not members of any Christian church or even regular attendants upon any house of worship. Any one who studies the life of our large towns and cities will admit this lamentable fact. In order to meet this state of things the Young Men's Christian Associations are laboring zealously and with blessed results. They do an admirable work among those whom they can bring under their influence ; but the number of those whom they reach is nothing like as large as it ought to be. For example, the Association in this city which has a noble building and is most ably manned and managed, enrolls about 4,000 members, some of whom are attracted by its superb

gymnasium. Many conversions are reported as the results of its earnest Sunday meetings. Still it only reaches about three per cent of the youth in this swarming hive of humanity. A correspondent of Hodder and Stoughton's religious *British Weekly* made recently the sad statement that

"The Y. M. C. A. has been at work in London for thirty-four years. It has about sixty metropolitan and suburban branches, and yet all its members and associations could be comfortably seated in two London theaters. Is it not a fact that the music halls influence more young men in one night than the Y. M. C. A. all the year round ?"

Should such statements discourage those of us who are laboring in and for these excellent associations ? No ; not for a moment. We pastors might as soon be discouraged in our Gospel work because an immense majority of souls in the community are yet unconverted. But these facts ought to keep us from *over-estimating* the amount of good influence exerted by the Y. M. C. A. ; they ought also to teach the churches that they have no right to shirk their responsibility and to throw the charge of young men upon even the best outside voluntary association. A church that attracts no youthful blood into it is doomed to decay and death. A church that neglects that portion of the community on which rests the future of both the State and the kingdom of Christ, deserves to die. The duty of the churches toward young men nobody denies ; but how to get hold of young men—a permanent hold—is a question that requires several answers.

1. The pulpit must do its part. Every minister of Jesus Christ, who understands his business, aims to make himself and his ministry attractive. He that is wise *winneeth* souls. Jesus said : "I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me." The ambassador of Christ must so present Christ, sin, salvation and the life that leads to it as to draw souls and not to drive them off. Young men are especially attracted by earnest, fervid, manly and rousing preaching. It may be preaching of the brilliant and intellectual type like Phillips Brook's or Dr. Parkhurst's and that will lay hold of a certain type of minds. It may be warm, impassioned appeal-preaching that goes from the heart and straight to the heart. Whatever the intellectual measurement of the discourses may be, no man but a *live* man will get hold of the young men. He must preach living truth for every-day use—truth that will teach young men how to live. His discourses need not very often be specifically prepared and announced as "sermons to young men ;" but they ought to be such sermons as will interest and get a grip on any average boy of fifteen years old. Go farther back and aim at the boys and girls ; get hold of them before the devil has got them. Put into every sermon more or less *matter* and then present it in such a *manner* as will nail a boy's ears to your pulpit and make an impression on a boy's heart. If the truth were

known, a very large majority of grown up people relish dry, cold, elaborate or abstract sermons no better than their children do. The fact that before certain pulpits large numbers of the youth gather every Sabbath is a proof that in those pulpits stand messengers of Jesus Christ who having something to say, say it, and in a tone of loving sympathy. Out of the pulpit the minister must have his eyes open to recognize the young men and the boys ; he must get acquainted with them, interest himself in each one of them and have a cordial, helpful word for them whenever he meets them. The secret of popularity in this world is to *take an interest in everybody you meet*—a very simple principle ; and yet scores of ministers ignore it ! They don't seem to remember that they can do but very little good to people who do not like them, and no good at all to those who will not come to hear them. The easiest class in the community to reach is the young men and the boys—by any minister who has common sense, a warm heart, and the love of Christ and of souls burning in his bones. Unless persons are led to Jesus Christ before they reach forty years, the chances are, four out of five, that they never will be. Those who are converted late in life, commonly have to spend so much time in pulling down that they are not able to do much building up, either of themselves or of others. Brethren, *strike for the young*.

2. The churches must do their part in getting hold of the young people, as well as the pastor. However attractive and useful the Y. M. C. A. may be in your town, yet it is but a single agency, and its best work cannot cover the whole field of a young man's spiritual necessities. It is the helpful ally of God's Church, but was never intended to be a substitute for the Church. Each individual church should have a Young People's Association of its own. It may be called a society of "Christian Endeavor," or by any other appropriate name ; but it ought to embrace *both sexes*. Many a young man will be attracted to a devotional meeting, or a social gathering in which he will meet young ladies, when he would not otherwise come at all. The church that I am permitted to serve, has an Association of over eight hundred members—about equally divided as to sex. All the meetings and all the committees are constructed on this gregarious principle. Don't the young people sometimes fall in love with each other there, and get married ? Yes, of course they do. I have officiated at forty or more marriages which grew out of the friendships formed in that Association. It is far better that a young man should get acquainted with his future wife at a prayer-meeting than in a ball room or a theater.

The social instinct is appealed to and employed continually in the service of Satan ; why should it not be used as constantly in the service of Christ ? Therefore the young people of every congregation should be banded together in a social, devotional, spir-